

Low Country Club News

Dare to be Great!

A Newsletter For the Low Country Toastmasters, By the Low Country Toastmasters!

Vol. 1, No. 2

March 15, 2007

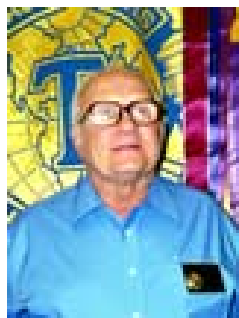


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From my Cluttered Desk to Yours!

This is Your Newsletter. The aim is to inform, entertain and offer a point-counter point forum, when necessary, for important Low Country TM issues.

You ARE the Low Country Toastmasters. Send me your tidbits, success stories, tips on helping clubs that are teetering and issues that you feel are important for the growth of our Divisions A and F.

The Division Governors have the right to accept or decline the contributions.

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International Speech and Table Topics Contests: Our Toastmasters Toasted the Words!

Our District 58 Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training Douglas W. Wilson, DTM, has set our standards high by winning the second place in the world in the International Speech Contest during the past year. We sincerely hope that we have a winner from our Divisions in District

58 contests, followed by Region 8 contest and International Contests! Best of luck winners!

There is no lack of talent in our low country toastmasters. This was obvious in the Area and Division contests held around the low country.

Area International Speech Contest Winners:

Division A

Area 11: Tom Limehouse (Winner)
Himanshu Upadhyaya
(Alternate)

Area 12: Tom Pasko (Winner)
Charles Schuster (Alternate)

Area 13: Darrell Grisby (Winner)
Bobby Jonte (Alternate)

Area 14: Cyndi Price (Winner)
Deanna-lynn Reilley
(Alternate)

Division F

Area 61: Roger Redford (Winner)
Helen Lasage (Alternate)

Area 62:

Area 63: Rich Stacy (Winner)
Cookie Lockhart
(Alternate)

Area Table Topics Contest Winners:

Division A:

Area 11: Ellen Reid (Winner)
Marie Louise Moreto
(Alternate)

Area 12: Marlana Davis (Winner)

- Jay Wallace (Alternate)
 Area 13: Bobby Jonte (Winner)
 Andrew Davis (Alternate)
 Area 14: Charlie McQuat (Winner)
 Jane Jude (Alternate)

Division F

- Area 61: Jack Schrt (Winner)
 Kenneth Ivery (Alternate)
 Area 62:
 Area 63: Cookie Lockhart (Winner)

Division A Contest Winners: International Speech:

- Thomas Limehouse (Winner)**
Deanna-lyn Reilley (Alternate)

Table Topics:

- Jane Jude (Winner)**
Andrew Davis (Alternate)

Division F Contest Winners

International Speech:

- Richard Hanf (Winner)**
Roger Redford (Alternate)

Table Topics:

- Kenneth Ivery (Winner)**
Roger Redford (Alternate)

Future District and Regional Meetings: Plan to Attend!

2007 District 58 Spring Conference Spartanburg Marriott® at Renaissance Park

299 North Church Street
 Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306
 USA

Phone: 1-864-596-1211

Fax: 1-864-596-1219

Sales: 1-864-596-1211

Toll-free: 1-800-327-6465

Website: <http://marriott.com>

Registration information and online form:

<http://www.toastmasters-d58.org>

Region VIII Conference, June 14- 18, 2007

“Music from the Heart”

Marriott Hotel, One Parkway East,
 Greenville, SC29615 (1-864-297-0300;

Fax: 1-864-281-0801

For Details refer to:

<http://www.toastmaster-d58.org>

BRAG ABOUT TOASTMASTERS: LESSONS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

Secret Ingredient for a successful Corporate Toastmasters Club (Blackbaud)

“Have you ever wondered what the “secret ingredient” for a successful Toastmasters club is? IT IS...THE MEMBERS! I joined Blackbaud Toastmasters almost two years ago after transferring from El Cid Toastdaws club. Admittedly, I thought there was no way that I would enjoy a corporate club as I did my collegiate club. My judgment could not have been much farther from the truth. I was in awe at how organized, professional, and enthused the members were, not to mention how smoothly the meetings were conducted. It did not take me long to feel the Toastmasters’ desire to *Dare to be Great* (District 58 motto).

It was through this club that I learned that no matter how large or small, rich or poor an organization is, it can only be as successful as its members. In our club, four members in particular have been the glue binding the spirit of our meetings. They are: **Tracy Brokes, Christopher Donahue, Maria Blowe, and Mary Aquino.** All of them have been a part of the club for four to five years. They are the essence of dedication. Their energy and continued leadership is invigorating and a great inspiration to the rest of us.

We also have some members who have not been with the club quite as long and yet they never fail to help out when needed or promote our club. **Nichols Joyner** has especially shown the drive of a champion through her

recruiting efforts. She is truly an essential force in our club. Nichols is always sharing the benefits of Toastmasters with co-workers and friends and this year she went above and beyond her duties. She had created an 80’s themed gift basket to be auctioned in our Good Cheer Fund Gift Basket Auction. The basket was fun, attracted potential members to our club, and served the dual role of raising money for charity. This is just one example of Nichols’ innovation in addition to her support.

Another person who has show-cased his talents has been Carl Wine. Carl currently serves as our VP of Public Relations. When I approached Carl to ask him to craft some posters and flyers for our club, he accepted the task openly. To my surprise and amazement Carl had designed posters that focused on fear... and the fear of public speaking. They’re absolutely eye catching and every bit creative. Though Carl is extremely busy in his daily activities, he did a spectacular job in helping make the club successful.

It is members like these that make Blackbaud Toastmasters club a unique recipe of vision, direction, and purpose. I would definitely say that we have figured out the “secret ingredient” and I am thankful for everyone’s membership. Without each of these persons involved, we would not be successful.”

Jhonna Casey

Blackbaud Toastmasters Club

THE TOWN CRIER March 2007 Volume 10, Issue 3 Daniel Island Community Events Daniel Island Toastmasters Club

Fear and intimidation... that’s what a lot of people experience when asked to speak in front of an audience. Is

your self confidence shattered when trying to sell your ideas, network at a business function, persuade others to your point of view, or speak before a group? Your best ideas deserve your best words and delivery. If you would like to discover the speaking skills you already have and develop additional communication and leadership Skills, join the Daniel Island Toastmasters Club. Daniel Island Toastmasters is one of over 10,000 Toastmasters International clubs in over 80 countries world wide. The Daniel Island Club meets every Friday at noon at Spring Arbor, 320 Seven Farms Drive.

Joining a Toastmaster Club will help you:

- Improve speaking, listening, and leadership skills.*
- Discover hidden abilities and talents.*
- Better understand the role of communication.*
- Increase self-esteem through active participation in personal development.*

Initially Toastmasters offer a self-paced communication program of ten projects. Each project focuses on a specific skill beginning with speech organization, then incrementally adds other skills including focusing your thoughts, word choice, gestures, vocal variety and visual aids. The leadership program also has projects concomitant with the communication program involving leadership within the club. Toastmasters also offers 15 advanced programs including Persuasive Speaking, Humorously Speaking, Storytelling, The Entertaining Speaker, and Public Relations. You will practice in a friendly, supportive non-intimidating environment and with people who are there for the same reasons you are...to become better communicators and leaders. You will learn to relax, plan and present a terrific speech with short notice, as well as learn to listen

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effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently in a range of situations.

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Cookie Lockhart at: 471-2828 or ClassyCountryCookie@Yahoo.com.

*Brian Richards, ACS, CL
 Area 63 Governor, Division F*

Ellen Cone, ATM-B, CL, President of Trolley Talkers. Club # 6299, Area 61, Division F, honored by the YWCA of Greater Charleston

Ellen Cone, a low country toastmaster, was one of twenty women honored Tuesday by the YWCA of Greater Charleston. These women are accomplished in their professions and excel in equally important roles as mothers, wives, mentors and advocates.

In their daily jobs they work in education, social services, retail, medicine and publishing. They "make things happen," **Charlotte Beers** said. Beers is a former advertising executive and diplomat. She was Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, "the longest job title in the room," she told a crowd of about 264 people. Beers was a diplomat from October 2001 until March 2003.

She spoke at the YWCA's annual Tribute to Women of Influence luncheon in North Charleston.

YWCA Board of Directors member **Dorothy Harrison** presented plaques to the honorees:

--**Ellen Cone**, quality manager at Lanxess Corp.

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 The Post and Courier, Charleston SC Page B3*



I had a Dream... Mikhail M. Agrest: Excerpt of a Speech

Presented: 02.24.2007, 2 days after George Washington Birthday Anniversary at The Major General William Moultrie Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Charlesotn, SC
 "We all have dreams..."

Dreams lead us away from our homes into adventures.

Dreams encouraged us to sacrifice on behalf of our beloved.

The Great Dreamers love entire nation and become Fathers of the Nation!

I try to learn how to live smiling... Every time when I return from my trip abroad and step off the airplane on the ground, I feel my American Passport in the pocket on my heart and I have tears in my eyes. I have tears of happiness and tears of Sadness...

I am proud and happy to be a citizen of this God Blessed Country, and I proudly recital the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republics, for which it stands, one Nation under God with the Liberty and Justice for all, for you and you and you and me...

I proudly think about myself as one of you, because, as all of you, I don't take the great achievements of this country for granted. As you bring through your lives love and memory for your ancestors, many of whom sacrificed their lives for our rights for Liberty, Life and search of Happiness. We belong because deeply inside we all think alike:

It is not what your country does for you; it is what you do for your Country.

I had a Dream...

*Mikhail M. Agrest, DTM
 Past Division A Governor*

Fast Trackers (#7199; Area 14; Division A) Rock and Roll: Publicity Clip

Toastmasters' meetings help take the fright out of public speaking

BY MAUREEN SIMPSON,

The Island Packet

Published Sunday, January 21, 2007

For some people, the prospect of speaking in public inspires a number of knee-jerk reactions, including fear, nausea and disturbing visions of underwear-clad audience members. But for more than 200,000 people in 90 countries, it inspires something else: fellowship. As members of Toastmasters International, these amateur elocutionists have found a haven in an 83-year-old organization devoted to "making effective oral communication a worldwide reality."

On Hilton Head Island, it's a tradition that has welcomed residents from all walks of life and communication comfort levels for more than 20 years. "There are not many places you can go and grow as a person not only by what you speak, but by what you hear," said **David Pautler**, a Realtor who helped start the Fast Trackers club on Hilton Head and who is known among many members as the "Godfather of Toastmasters."

"You never know what you're going to learn," he said. "Sometimes, the speeches just take your breath away. You really do come to know these people in the room. The procedure is formal, but the content is not."

At 7:45 a.m. every Friday, 15 to 20 people meet at Palmetto Electric on Mathews Drive to temporarily shed their identities as dentists, bankers, retirees, insurance salesmen and homemakers for the roles of toastmaster, word master,

grammarian, ah counter, speaker and evaluator. Members of the group, locally dubbed **Fast Trackers**, work together to listen carefully, think creatively and speak confidently on a range of topics outlined in official Toastmasters manuals.

At every meeting, at least three members deliver prepared speeches that are evaluated by three other group members from a "compliment, critique, challenge" perspective. The club votes on who gave the best speech, best evaluation and best table topics, which is an impromptu speaking challenge given at the beginning of the meeting.

The objective of the Toastmasters program is to complete 10 speeches that focus on a variety of skills, including body language, gestures, vocal variety and using props effectively. Many members stay long after they reach this goal, though. Some continue to work on improving their speaking skills and garnering ribbons, while others stay for the friendships.

"I love it. It's my highlight of the week," said Alison Meeks, who has been a member for three years. "You're surrounded by individuals who really care about you. Everything I do here, I take back. (My co-workers) know I'm so happy on Friday mornings that I'll do anything for them. I'll stick my ribbon on the window of my office like a little kid." Paul Glick, who has participated in Toastmasters for about a decade, said he keeps coming back to "return the favor."

"I enjoy it and I still have plenty of room for improvement, but to some extent I can help some other people to improve," Glick said. "It's very fulfilling. Several members have advanced in their careers because of what they've learned in Toastmasters. It's amazing to see."

Pautler was so inspired by the changes he witnessed in adults that he helped start a group for homeschoolers on the island eight years ago. Each Friday, following the adult group, he volunteers an hour of his time to work with the students on the same format and at the same meeting site. On occasions when he knows he will not be able to act as the facilitator, colleagues from Fast Trackers fill in.

"I used to say 'like' all the time, but now I've eliminated it almost completely," said Joseph Reilley, a homeschooler who credits the sound of the bell ringing at each filler word for breaking him of the habit. The 17-year-old, who has been a member of Toastmasters for three years, said he used to be terrified of public speaking but has gotten more comfortable with time and consistency. He even got his mother, Deanna-lyn Reilley, to join Fast Trackers. "We made a deal. I told her I just wanted her to see what I'm going through," he said. "Now, we both love it."

Pautler said that if more people would give Toastmasters a chance, they would love it, too. The club creates a non-threatening atmosphere that works to fight the stigma that public speaking has to be a terrifying experience, opening membership up to both the people who are afraid to speak and the ones who just want to get better.

"I know people can improve, but improvement comes from a sense of feeling confidence instead of fear," he said. "We create the experience of making mistakes to provide the freedom to learn. It doesn't mean the butterflies go away. You just get them in flying formation."

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